

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3394

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 2369

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN VS VN CB GH

SUB: PRG AND KHMER ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

REF: A) ACCRA 2341 B) STATE 62535 C) STATE 83517

1. GOG WELL AWARE US OPPOSITION SEATING PRG AND GRUNK REPS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OR GRANTING THEM MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL BODIES. GOG HAS HEARD ALL THE ARGUMENTS AND BEEN THROUGH THE WRINGER SEVERAL TIMES. THIS BECAME EVEN CLEARER DURING CONVERSATION APRIL 29 WHEN, LISTENING TO REITERATION USG POSITION USING POINTS INCLUDED PARAS 4 THROUGH REFTEL B, DIRECTOR MFA'S INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND CONFERENCES DIVISION NODDED HIS HEAD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, SIGNIFYING HE KNEW THE ARGUMENT.

2. DIRECTOR DECLINED ENGAGE IN DETAILED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION AT THIS POINT IN CONVERSATION. BUT DURING SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF GOG'S REFUSAL RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF GKR, DIRECTOR DESCRIBED A "NEW POLICY" UNDER WHICH, IN ESSENCE, GHANA WILL OBSERVE STRICT NEUTRALITY IN DEALING WITH QUESTIONS INVOLVING
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DIVIDED COUNTRIES AND,IN VOTING AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS.

WILL ABSTAIN ON SUCH QUESTIONS (SEE REFTEL A). AT SAME TIME, AFTER CONSIDERABLE PRODDING, DIRECTOR ALLOWED THAT IN "CERTAIN" CIRCUMSTANCES GOG WOULD DECIDE ITS POSITION OR CAST ITS VOTE ON THE "MERITS" OF A PARTICULAR ISSUE. NEVERTHELESS, IT QUITE CLEAR THAT GOG IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY HESITANT ABOUT TAKING SIDES ON ISSUES CONCERNING DIVIDED COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: WE KNOW GOG QUITE DISMAYED OVER LONG ROW RE PRG INVITATION ISSUE AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE (ACCRA 1143). TOO, WE SUSPECT GOG HAS BEEN CRITICIZED BY NON-ALIGNED BLOC (INCLUDING SOME AFRICANS) FOR SUPPORTING KHMER SIDE IN LAST FALL'S VERY CLOSE UNGA VOTE DESPITE NON-ALIGNED'S ANNOUNCED SUPPORT FOR GRUNK.

"NEW POLICY" MAY BE, IN FACT, EFFORT BY GOG TO AVOID BECOMING INVOLVED IN OFTEN-EMOTION-LADEN ISSUES WHICH ARE OF MARGINAL IMPORTANCE TO GHANA. IF MFA STICKS TO ITS GUNS (DIRECTOR AT ONE POINT REFERRED TO "PRESENT" POLICY, IMPLYING THAT POLICIES COULD CHANGE AND, FROM OUR STANDPOINT, THIS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE FOR THE BETTER), WE SHOULD BE ABLE COUNT ON GHANAIAAN ABSTENTIONS ON HKMER AND PRG ISSUES. AT SAME TIME, GOG UNDOUBTEDLY BEING SUBJECTED PRESSURES FROM OTHER SIDE, AND WE SHOULD NOT FAIL CONTINUE MAKE OUR VIEWS VERY CLEAR. WE ARE ALSO FACED WITH THE HORSE-TRADING OF VOTES THAT GOES ON BETWEEN OAU AND OTHER NON-ALIGNED BLOCS IN INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, WHHICH MEANS OUR DELEGATIONS SHOULD WORK HARD IN EFFORT KEEP GOG AT A MINIMUM ON ITS ABSTENTION LINE AND THAT REPRESENTATIVES DOE NOT SLIP OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE. UNDOUBTEDLY IT WILL BE HARDER IN FUTURE TO MOVE GHANADELS FROM ABSTENTION TO OUR POINT OF VIEW ON PRG AND KHMER ISSUES.

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